



# Recycling Lines

## FEBRUARY 2005

Electronic Newsletter

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Do you have an answer for the Question of the Month? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at [gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov).**

### Battery Recycling Reaches New High

Over 4.4 million pounds of rechargeable batteries were collected by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) in 2004 from the US and Canada. RBRC found that its 1-800-BATTERY help line and the new Call2Recycle (1-877-2-RECYCLE) was extremely helpful in directing citizens and companies to recycling options for this material. RBRC's new cell phone recycling program has collected over 48,000 cell phones since its launch in April of 2004.

### Tire Amnesty News

The Bedford County Department of Solid Waste and the Peaks of Otter Water and Soil Conservation District hosted a waste tire amnesty in November of 2004, targeting residents and farmers only. Four hundred and forty tons of waste tires (estimated 21,000 tires) were collected for processing and recycling. For further information contact Sheldon Cash at (540) 586-7656.

### Big Recycling Bins Increase Participation

Last April the City of Norfolk moved from open-top recycling bins to 95-gallon wheeled carts, and the change in its recycling program has been dramatic in terms of household participation and material collected. Since the change, participation has more than doubled, and the amount of recyclables collected has quadrupled, from an average of 59 tons per month to well over 200 tons per month.

The larger carts have proven to be more convenient for the citizens to use, and in addition, can be emptied by automated collection trucks. This program mirrors a similar program in Virginia Beach, which began in 1997.

For information, contact Debbie Devine, SPSA's Director of Recycling, at (757) 548-2256, extension 305.

### Web Link of interest:

- <http://www.cvwma.com>

### Did You Know?

U.S. Representatives Mike Thompson (California) and Louise Slaughter (New York) recently introduced the National Computer Recycling Act, a bill that would direct EPA to develop and implement a national electronic waste recycling program. Part of the bill would require EPA to assess a fee of up to \$10 on each new computer sold.

### DEQ's Mercury Switch Collection Pilot

DEQ announced that it will provide free mercury switch collection kits to the first 50 salvage yards that volunteer for a pilot project to remove and recycle automobile switches that contain mercury. These switches are commonly found under the hood or trunks of automobiles, and serve to turn on convenience lights in these areas.

DEQ is working with the Virginia Automotive Recyclers Association (VARA) to promote this program. Auto Recyclers of Winchester was the first facility to volunteer for the program, and AERC Recycling Solutions produced and will manage the kits once they are used by the scrap yards. Each kit can hold up to 450 mercury switches.

Questions about the project may be directed to the VARA at (434) 977-3716 or to DEQ's Tom Griffin at (804) 698-4545.

### Illegal Tire Pile Gets Owner Charged

Under Virginia law it is illegal to store more than 100 tires on public or private property without a permit. A Harrisonburg Fire Marshall discovered 1,324 tires stored behind a building, and felony charges were brought against the property owner after repeated attempts to have him clean up the tires were ignored. The owner was charged for violation of § 10.1-1418.2 of the Code of Virginia.

### EPA Grants for Innovative Recycling Projects

EPA Region 3 seeks pre-proposals for grants (due March 25, 2005) that address solid waste generation and management issues. Grant applications are available at this web site: <http://www.epa.gov/reg2wcmd/solidwastegrants.htm>

**Question of the month:** What one thing would make your recycling program stronger/better?

**Last month's question:** What one thing makes your recycling program successful? **Public participation**

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